

Classroom Compensatory Strategies for Pragmatic/Social Language

- Provide clear expectations and rules for behavior using concrete terms and examples (tell WHAT to do vs. what NOT to do)
 - Explicitly teach rules of social conduct; spatial/relationship boundaries
 - Use other children as cues to indicate what to do
 - Teach rules regarding conversation skills including initiation, turn-taking, and when to reply, interrupt or change topic
 - * Explain humor, sarcasm and colloquial phrases
 - * Explain metaphors, idioms, and words with double meanings
 - Identify non-verbal expressions, including body language, and identify their meanings
 - Educate peers about how to respond to the student's disability in social interaction
 - Encourage cooperative play/interaction
 - Teach flexibility, cooperation and sharing
- * Non-literal phrases such as "take a seat," "stir the pot," "egg people on," "mouthy," "back talk," "get it together," "pull my leg," etc. are confusing terms for concrete language learners.